Structuring the Race to Implement Trash TMDLs: Sprint, Relay or Marathon

Southern California Association of Governments
Water Policy Task Force
Meeting of September 21, 2006

Gerry Greene, Senior Civil Engineer/Water Resources Control Specialist City of Downey, Department of Public Works, Engineering Division ggreene@downeyca.org

Brief Status of the Trash TMDLs

- East Fork San Gabriel River
 - May 25, 2000
 - 16 pages
 - US Forest Service
 - zero standard (No MS4 Permit-3rd Party suits)
 - Implementation
 - More trash and hot coal receptacles (4 campgrounds)
 - 4 educators & 1 collection crew weekends/holidays
 - Bilingual anti-littering signage
 - Enforce existing anti-littering laws

Brief Status of the Trash TMDLs

- Ballona Creek (and Los Angeles River)
 - September 19, 2001
 - 41 pages + 9 page CEQA checklist
 - 7 MS4s & Caltrans (83% City of LA)
 - Zero standard (MS4 Permit RWL clause)
 - Implementation
 - ♠ 3 year study, then 10% per year to zero
 - Institutional controls (sweeping, enforcement)
 - "Full Capture" BMPs inserts, vortex, nets
 - January 16, 2004 Settlement Agreement
 - ◆ "Full Capture" design criteria became 0.6"/hr rain





Brief Status of the Trash TMDLs

- → 2001 Los Angeles River
 - September 19, 2001 (like Ballona Creek)
 - Litigation steps to 12/05 invalidation
 CEQA, while some other issues are "unripe"
 - Settlement agencies (LA City/County)
 are continuing there good faith efforts
- 2006 Los Angeles River
 - September 8, 2006 Superior Court
 - "new TMDL ... extremely similar to the prior TMDL that was invalidated".

August 25, 2006 Trash Colloquium

- Significant differences of opinion about the legal status of Trash TMDL
- More "Full Capture" Certified Devices than permittees were aware of
 - CalTrans Gross Solids Removal Device
 - 4-City catch basin screen and excluders
 - City of Signal Hill Trash Nets
- Money for BMP implementation
 - Very little and revocable for dissenters
 - EPA Provided <u>some</u> for MS4 Consortium



